THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Central Universities have been established under Acts of Parliament in every State, however, the Acts in respect of Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are yet to come in to force.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The present policy of the Government is to lay emphasis on consolidation and expansion of facilities in the existing universities rather than setting up of more universities.

Expenditure on higher education

2154. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that we are spending only 0.37 per cent of our GDP on higher education as compared to 0.05 per cent by China, 1.41 per cent by US and 1.07 per cent by UK;

(b) if so, how we propose to open new universities or expand the existing universities with a view to accommodate a large number of students, especially when quota for OBC has been fixed and assurance to other classes of students has been given that the number of seats for them would not be curtailed; and

(c) the percentage of GDP we propose to spend on higher education in the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) It is a fact that public expenditure on higher education in the India is lower than several other countries.

(b) Expansion of Capacity in higher education is a joint ongoing effort of the State Governments and the Central Government. The budgetary provision for higher education including technical education has been substantially increased since 2004-05 by the Central Government resulting in the creation of new Central Universities and other higher education institutions.

(c) Public expenditure by the Central Government on higher education during 2007-08 will depend on approval of the budgetary proposal by Parliament.

Guidelines for opening higher educational institutions

2155. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines fixed for opening higher educational institutions in the country;

(b) if educational and social backwardness of a place is one at the parameters, whether Government would consider opening one such institution of higher education at Rohru, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The universities are established or incorporated by or under a Central Act, a provincial Act or a State Act. Higher Educational requirements of all regions, in order to prevent regional imbalances, is a joint ongoing responsibility of States as well as the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Central Universities have been established/Central Legislation enacted for Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim. There is no proposal, at present under consideration to open a Central University in Himachal Pradesh.

Reservation for OBC students

2156. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation for OBC students in respect of admission to higher courses run by Central Universities has already come into force;

(b) if so, since when and upto which percentage;

(c) whether the OBC students getting admitted in regional college, affiliated to university run by any State, will get the benefit of reservation coming out in part (b) above; and